Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANAMA 01144 210540Z ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 MCE-00 SS-15 SP-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ABF-01 AID-05 ACDA-12 /053 W

-----070484 211714Z /43

R 210415Z MAY 78 FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6180 INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA AMEMBASSY ROME CHUSMTM DHAHRAN USCINCEUR SECDEF WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL MANAMA 1144

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MASS, BA, SA

HQ USAF WASHDC

SUBJECT: BAHRAINI ARMS REQUESTS

REF: (A) STATE 102626 (B) MANAMA 950

- 1. AT MY REQUEST I CALLED ON DEFENSE MINISTER/HEIR APPARENT SHAIKH HAMAD MAY 20 TO INQUIRE ABOUT STATUS OF ARMS REQUESTS ACTIONS WHICH ARE HIS TO TAKE AND TO REVIEW WITH HIM STATUS OF OUR ACTION.
- 2. HELICOPTERS. SHAIKH HAMAD IS PREPARED TO SIGN NON-TRANSFER AGREEMENT BUT HAS SOUGHT "CLEARANCE" TO DO SO FROM GENERAL KABBANI. KABBANI HAS NOT REPLIED THOUGH HAMAD SAID QUESTION PUT TO HIM ALMOST A MONTH AGO. HAMAD SAID CONTRACT FOR HELICOPTERS IS STILL BETWEEN SAG AND AGUSTA-BELL AND HE IS RELUCTANT TO TAKE ANY ACTION WITHOUT SAG CONCURRENCE. HE ASKED IF EMBASSY JIDDA OR CHUSMTM COULD URGE ON KABBANI THAT HE REPLY TO HAMAD THAT SAG CONCURS IN NON-TRANSFER STATEMENT DIRECTLY TO USG FROM GOB. PLEASE ADVISE.

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2. HAMAD CONFIRMED WHAT WE HAD HEARD RECENTLY FROM HIS COS: HELICOPTERS WILL BE DELIVERED DIRECTLY TO BAHRAIN AND AGUSTA-BELL PERSONNEL WILL BE ON HAND TO HELP BAHRAINIS RECEIVE THEM. HAMAD SAID AGUSTA-BELL PERSONNEL MIGHT STAY ON, BEYOND USUAL DELIVERY CHORES, TO HELP HIS PEOPLE ABSORB THE NEW EQUIPMENT.

- 3. 2.75 ROCKETS. HAMAD AWAITS LOA AND DID NOT OBJECT WHEN I SAID WE WOULD PREFER THAT HE GET SAG TO SIGN REQUIRED PARAGRAPH ON PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS. HOWEVER, GIVEN HIS SKITTISHNESS IN DEALING WITH SAUDIS, I SUSPECT THAT WHEN TIME COMES HE MAY ASK US TO GET IN THE ACT IN SEEKING SAG SIGNATURE.
- 4. LAWS. I TOLD HAMAD WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR LETTER OF JUSTIFICATION. HE PROMISED TO GET IT TO ME ASAP. CLUVERIUS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: ARMS, MILITARY PROCUREMENT, HELICOPTERS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 21 may 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANAMA01144
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Expiration:

Film Number: D780214-0479

Format: TEL From: MANAMA

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780537/aaaabezy.tel

Line Count: 72 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: f665179a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION PM

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 102626, 78 MANAMA 950

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 29 mar 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:**

Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2627091 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: BAHRAINI ARMS REQUESTS

TAGS: MASS, BA, SA

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f665179a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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